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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the specification:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-86. (Cancelled)

- 1 Claim 87. (New) A complex of a modified form of a gp120 of a HIV-1 isolate and a modified form of an ectodomain of gp41 of such HIV-1 isolate, wherein the modified gp120 comprises an A492C mutation and the modified gp41 ectodomain comprises a T596C mutation, such mutations being numbered by reference to the HIV-1 isolate JR-FL, wherein the modified gp120 and the modified gp41 ectodomain are joined together by an intermolecular disulfide bond which stabilizes the otherwise non-covalent gp120-gp41 ectodomain interaction.
- 2 88. (New) The complex of claim ²¹87, wherein the modified gp120 is further characterized by the absence of one or more of the variable loops present in wild type gp120.
- 3 89. (New) The complex of claim ²88, wherein the absent variable loop comprises V1, V2, V3 or a combination thereof.
- 4 90. (New) The complex of claim ^{2 3}88 or ³89, wherein the absent variable loop comprises V1 and V2.
- 5 91. (New) The complex of claim ⁽89, wherein the HIV-1

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isolate represents a subtype selected from the group consisting of clades A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and O.

6 92.

(New) The complex of claim ⁵91, wherein the HIV-1 isolate is a B subtype.

7 93.

(New) The complex of claim ⁶92, wherein the HIV-1 isolate is HIV-1_{JR-FL}, HIV-1_{DH123}, HIV-1_{GUN-1}, HIV-1_{89.6} or HIV-1_{HXB2}.

8 94.

(New) A trimer which comprises a noncovalent oligomer of three identical complexes of any of claims ~~87-93~~.

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9 95.

(New) A modified gp140 polypeptide of a HIV-1 isolate, wherein a first portion of the gp140 corresponds to a modified gp120 polypeptide and a second portion of the gp140 corresponds to a modified gp41 ectodomain, wherein the modified gp120 comprises an A492C mutation and the modified gp41 ectodomain comprises a T596C mutation, such mutations being numbered by reference to the HIV-1 isolate JR-FL, wherein the modified gp120 and the modified gp41 ectodomain are joined together by an intermolecular disulfide bond which stabilizes the otherwise non-covalent gp120-gp41 ectodomain interaction.

10 96.

(New) The modified gp140 polypeptide of claim ⁹95, wherein the modified gp120 is further characterized by the absence of one or more of the variable loops present in wild type gp120.

11 97.

(New) The modified gp140 polypeptide of claim ¹⁰96,

wherein the absent variable loop comprises V1, V2, V3 or a combination thereof.

- 12 ~~98~~. ¹⁰ (New) The modified gp140 polypeptide of claim ~~96~~ or ~~91~~, wherein the absent variable loop comprises V1 and V2.
- 13 ~~99~~. ⁹ (New) The modified gp140 polypeptide of claim ~~96~~, wherein the HIV-1 isolate represents a subtype selected from the group consisting of clades A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and O.
- 14 ~~100~~. ¹³ (New) The modified gp140 polypeptide of claim ~~96~~, wherein the HIV-1 isolate is a B subtype.
- 15 ~~101~~. ¹⁴ (New) The modified gp140 polypeptide of claim ~~100~~, wherein the HIV-1 isolate is HIV-1_{JR-FL}, HIV-1_{DH123}, HIV-1_{GUN-1}, HIV-1_{89.6} or HIV-1_{HXB2}.
- 16 ~~102~~. (New) A modified gp140 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in any of SEQ ID NOs.: 13, 15 or 17.
- 17 ~~103~~. (New) The modified gp140 polypeptide of claim 102, having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:15.
- 18 ~~104~~. (New) A trimer which comprises a noncovalent oligomer of three identical modified gp140 polypeptides of any of claims ~~95-103~~.
- 19 ~~105~~. (New) A composition comprising a carrier and the complex of any of claims ~~87-93~~ or the trimer of either of claims ~~91~~ or ~~104~~.

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20 16.

(New) The composition of claim ¹⁹~~15~~, further
comprising an adjuvant.